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The Rural District Council of Wath.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1944.

Metcalfes & Harper, Printers, North Street,
RIPON.

ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Chairman and Members of the Rural District Council of
Wath.

Gentlemen,

I again have the honour to present an abridged Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1944, for the area of the Rural District of Wath.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA.

Area in acres	...	...	...	...	...	16997
Population (census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	2088
do estimated Midsummer 1944	...	...	...	...	...	1805
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	515
Live Births :—				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	...	...	...	18	14	32
Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	3	4
					Total	36
Still Births :—				<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
				—	2	2
					Total	2
Live Birth Rate,	1944—19.9					
	per 1000 of the estimated population.					
Still Birth Rate,	1944—0.74					
	per 1000 total live and still births.					
Deaths (all causes)	...	...	...	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
				9	7	16
Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—						
Legitimate	...	...	...	-	1	1
Illegitimate	...	...	...	-	1	1
					Total	2
Death Rate, 1944—8.9.						

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

Total Infantile Mortality per 1000 Live Births	...	55.6
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Illegitimate Children deaths under one year of age per 1000 illegitimate live births	250.0
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No deaths from Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Deaths from Measles	Nil
„ Whooping Cough	Nil
„ Diarrhoea	... ..	Nil

No excessive mortality.

No deaths from	Childbirth.
„	Puerperal Sepsis.
„	other Puerperal causes.
„	Tuberculosis.

Deaths from Pneumonia—3.

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

HOSPITALS.

A. FEVER :—

Council's Joint Hospital.

B. SMALL POX :—

Council's Joint Small Pox Hospital.

Both Hospitals situated at Ripon, one mile from Council's boundary, and are jointly held by this Council—Ripon City and Ripon Rural Council.

There is ample accommodation in both Hospitals for Fever and Small Pox cases.

C. TUBERCULOSIS :—

N.R. County Council provides all services for all branches of Tuberculosis cases.

D. MATERNITY :—

Also provided by N.R. County Council.

E. CHILDREN :—

Ripon, Harrogate Hospitals.

Ambulance Facilities.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- A. Infectious Diseases Ambulance.
- B. Non-Infectious cases and Accidents conveyed by separate Ambulance.
- C. Maternity cases by the Ambulance at (B).

Both Ambulances are stationed at Ripon, and jointly provided by the Council's adjoining.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL.

- (a) F. STOCKTON GOWLAND, Clerk to Wath R.D.C., 5, Finkle Street, Ripon. Telephone Ripon 576.
- (b) T. CARTER MITCHELL, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Topcliffe, Thirsk. Telephone Topcliffe 230.
- (c) WILLIAM WATSON, A.M.I.C.E., Cert. R.S. Inst., North End, Northallerton. Telephone Northallerton 164.

NURSING.

Four District Nurses practice daily throughout the area.

All Notifiable Infectious Cases are removed to Council's Joint Isolation Hospital.

Four Midwives officiate throughout the Council's area.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Efficiently and promptly supplied by the E.P.H. Laboratory, Northallerton, under N.R.C.C. direction.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNIZATION.

During past three years immunization has been systematically carried out throughout the Council's area. Sessions are held regularly for each village. The response has been most encouraging, and the results excellent. A high standard of 80—85% has been maintained through the District Nurses' instrumentality in canvassing the parents.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

There are eleven (11) townships in this Council's area.

Nine (9) of these have a good piped water supply.

Another is being provided with an extension of a piped supply from an adjoining village.

Throughout the year there was a full supply of water of good quality and quantity in each of the provided townships.

Specimens from each supply were taken and submitted to Bacteriological examination by Emergency Public Health Laboratory, N. Riding, Yorks.

No case of impurity was reported.

DRAINAGE.

No new sewers were laid or extended under the circumstances existing.

SCAVENGING.

No organised system of scavenging has as yet been provided.

MILK SUPPLY.

No Public Dairies exist. Much milk is produced by the different Dairymen and Cow-keepers. Cleanliness is still difficult to enforce ; also to supervise, owing to the scattered centres of production.

HOUSING.

A "scrutiny" survey was ordered by the Council to be undertaken by the Medical Officer of Health in preparation for a Housing Scheme to be launched at the end of hostilities.

This survey which called for very many examinations and special visits were methodically carried out during the period of July to October, 1944.

A signed copy of full particulars gathered from this large undertaking is provided below.

T. CARTER MITCHELL,
M.O.H.

Topcliffe,
Thirsk.

HOUSING REPORT, OCT. 31st, 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council.

Gentlemen,

Acting on the instructions of the Council, at their meeting in June, we have made a detailed survey of houses in your area, during the past four months.

We confined our examinations to the houses occupied, or suitable for occupation, by wage earners, and their families.

Today's requirements, under the Housing Acts and Orders, call for a standard of soundness of fabric, and suitability for their dwellers welfare.

This was the basis we worked upon. A modern Rural Housing Scheme must deal both with the closure of bad houses, and also provide new ones for a long term ahead.

The artistic exterior, of some of these unfit old houses, is completely outweighed, by their evil interiors of discomfort, and disposition for disease.

Little has been done in the past, to overtake this worsening state, consequently, there is now a total of " Unfits " which may appear somewhat appalling.

In some instances these houses began life as trade or farm buildings, and were later converted into human dwellings with dire results ; in others, subdivision of a moderate house has produced two bad ones.

In those disastrous days, Byelaws, Housing Acts, or orders, unfortunately, did not exist.

Every house has been carefully judged on its merits, and demerits.

These are fully supported, by the facts of each house on the Housing Record Cards, of every house in your area and which are in the Council's possession.

These records were made, when the Over-Crowding Survey was carried out, a few years ago, by your Sanitary Inspector.

These Record Cards emphasise the frequent shortage of sleeping accommodation both in the necessary number of bedrooms and the floor and air space of each, and absence of fireplaces in case of illness.

These grave defects render such houses as valueless, under the Overcrowding Act requirements.

Modern houses with three bedrooms, as a minimum should attract workers to the land, and also allow parents to have a family, which the nation now calls for.

We realise the urgency for re-building and repairs all over the country due to the war, but are of the opinion that the conditions as shown in this survey calls for action by the Council as soon as that may be possible and that preliminary arrangements in preparation for action be taken in hand without delay.

We also consider that perhaps more normal time for building would provide materials in harmony with the fabric of existing houses in your area.

List of houses ; classified in each village, of the eleven townships ,comprising the Wath Rural Area, as being incapable of, and capable of being rendered fit is now given as the result of the long survey recently made.

				<i>Incapable and totally unfit.</i>	<i>Capable of Reconditioning or Reconstruction.</i>
A SENBY				6	6
LECKBY	...	...	...	1	-
CUNDALL	...	...	...	5	1
DISHFORTH	...	...	...	14	10
MARTON-LE-MOOR	...	...	...	9	-
RAINTON	...	...	...	17	10
BALDERSBY ST. JAMES	...	...	...	1	-
BALDERSBY	...	...	...	4 unfit 4 fit but too cramped	5
MELMERBY	...	...	...	10	-
WATH	...	...	...	4	5
NORTON CONYERS	...	...	...	2	2
HUTTON CONYERS	...	...	...	5	2
MIDDLETON QUERNHOW "within"				8	-
MIDDLETON QUERNHOW "without"				5	2
				—	
Total				95	43
				—	—

A key list of above houses has been made and kept for future reference.

General remarks upon the existing housing conditions in each village.

Asenby.—Characterized by only two bedrooms in most houses and small bedrooms and without fireplaces in many of them.

Leckby.—A Hind cottage. Totally unfit for habitation.

Cundall.—Mixture of modern and some worn out houses.

Dishforth.—Characterized by alleys and yards, containing cramped and small houses, without back doors, deficient in light and bedroom space, and number, and no fireplaces in bedrooms.

Marton-le-Moor.—Characterized by some subdivisions of old and large houses, giving commodious, but not attractive living and bedrooms ; also four well built cottages, with only two bedrooms and some worn out houses.

Rainton.—Characterized by houses built of soft perishing yellow sand stone, and cobbles stones explaining the numerous unfit houses—some were originally trade and farm premises and would not stand further reconstruction. 7 vacant houses ; 5 of these were closed by Council six years ago, and two are unoccupied agricultural houses.

Baldersby.—Characterized by large sound living rooms, but with bedroom too few, and too small and some not suitable for reconstruction.

Melmerby.—Ten “ unfits ” badly worn and not suitable for reconstruction still remaining although 28 houses have been built and reconditioned, in past ten years, in this village.

Wath and Norton Conyers.—Cramped living space and too small bedroom space and insufficient light.

Baldersby St. James.—Living and sleeping space too limited

Hutton Conyers.—Characterized by houses built of very soft red sand stone and hard cobbles, which explains the prevalence of decay and wear, and the persistence of dampness, in these worn houses.

Middleton Quernhow “ Within ”—Characterized by being deficient in living room and bedroom space, and number of bedrooms, fabric badly worn, and damp in some, others not perished but incapable of reconstruction to the desired standard of large enough living rooms and three bedrooms in each, to comply with modern requirements of Housing Acts.

Middleton Quernhow "Without."—Exceptionally very small and old and worn cobble and sandstone houses—far too small in living and sleeping rooms to comply with present requirements—deficient in light and air space—dampness prevalent, many not occupied by men. Reconstruction not possible. If these are replaced, the new houses should be erected in Middleton Quernhow village where water and sewers exist.

We are, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servants,

T. CARTER MITCHELL, M.R.C.S.; L.R.C.P.,
Medical Officer of Health Wath Rural District
Council, N.R. Yorks.

WM. WATSON, Cert. R.L.S.I.,
Sanitary Inspector Wath Rural District Council,
N.R. Yorks.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. CARTER MITCHELL,

Medical Officer of Health,

Rural District Council of Wath, N.R. Yorks.

